

Gods mouth, wee shall dispatch them quickly. But it is considerable, that the Bishops Government is the greatest Idol in the Land, and has multiplied Idolls all over the Christian world; And now the Kings of the earth doe weep over them, so doe the Merchants. Here will be a *Scuffle*, a pleading for them; very little will be said for the Arch-Bishops, more for the Bishops; much for the defence of *Rome*, why they shalld not suffer with the rest, who have offended *Rome* as eagerly in shew, as others have defended her indeed; much also for the continuing of the name, and of their Office: We shall argue clear against all this, find all guilty; *name* and *thing*, and all to be cast out. And all this for the honour of the (Scripture) Bishop, and for the confusion of the *Lord*. Amen.

F 1 N f s.

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F 1 N f s.

*K. Twissel my brother*

16

CERTAINE  
CONSIDERATIONS  
TO  
DISSVADE MEN  
FVR THER <sup>FR OM</sup> GATHERING  
OF  
CHVRCHES

in this present juncture of Time.

Subscribed by diverse Divines of the  
Assembly, hereafter mentioned.

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*Imprimatur pro Radulpho Smith.*

*Decemb. 23. 1643.*

*John White.*

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*LONDON,*

Printed for *Ralph Smith* at the signe of the Bible  
in *Cornhill* neare the *Exchange.* 1643

*Dec. 23*





CERTAINE  
**CONSIDERATIONS**  
 TO  
 Difswade men from further  
 gathering of Churches in this  
 present juncture of time.



Though we do not deeme our  
 selves worthy at all to heale any  
 of the bleeding wounds in this  
 distressed Kingdome; Yet when  
 wee consider, that, beside the  
 raging of the sword devouring us every  
 where, our miseries are increased by the seve-  
 rall wayes of Brethren, and that many of those  
 we dearely love in the Lord, are at this time  
 entring themselves into Church-societies; we  
 could not but in our tender love to the publike  
 good,

good, and also out of Christian prudence, present unto their serious thoughts these considerations.

First, That although it be the duty of all the servants of Christ, to keepe themselves alwayes pure from corruption in Religion, and to indeavour in an orderly way, the Reformation of it; Yet is it an undoubted Maxime, that it belongs to Christian Magistrates in an especiall manner to be authorizers of, and Ministers of the Gospel to be Leaders in, such Reformation.

2. That while they are doing this worke, it is the duty of all people to pray for them, encourage them, joyne with them, and waite upon them.

3. That at this time God hath inclined the hearts of the Honorable Houses of Parliament to ingage themselves herein, and they have called an Assembly of Divines to assist them; and required them to make the Word their onely rule, and to endeavor the nearest conformatie to the best reformed Churches: at which worke they now are, and through Gods mercy have made some comfortable beginning.

beginning according to that rule.

4. That now all the power of Satan and Antichrist is combining by all possible meanes to destroy the Parliament, and to cause this worke of God to cease; Nothing can be more destructive to the friends of the cause of Religion, then to be divided amongst themselves; a thing which the enemies desire and endeavour to breed and foment by all possible meanes.

5. That it is not to bee doubted, but the councells of the Assembly of Divines, and the care of the Parliament will be, not onely to reforme and set up Religion throughout the Nation, but will concurre to preserve whatever shall appeare to be the rights of particular Congregations, according to the Word; and to beare with such whose Conscience cannot in all things conforme to the publicke Rule, so farre as the word of God would have them borne withall.

6. That therefore all Ministers and people be earnestly intreated to forbear for a convenient time the joyning of themselves into Church-societies of any kind whatsoever, un-  
till

till they see whether the right Rule will not bee commended to them in this orderly way.

7. And the rather because that although the hand of God bee heavy upon us in other respects, yet through his goodnesse those yoakes are broken which we hitherto groaned under in regard of corruption in Religion, wee enjoying more liberty to scrye God according to his word, then at any time in England since the beginning of the Reformation.

8. That while men are in expectation that a way according to their consciences may be approved or allowed of by the Magistrates, it is unfit and will bee uncomfortable, before hand to provoke by setting up their owne.

9. And lastly, that if after all their waiting, the right rule should not bee delivered unto them, and they then called to suffer (which wee hope will never be) for doing what shall appeare to be their dutie, they shall have the more peace with God, and their consciences, while they shall witnesse with them that to prevent occasions of divisions they abstained

not.

not onely from what was sinfull, but even from what was by them judged to bee lawfull whilst unseasonable.

*William Twisse.*

*Tbo. Goodwin.*

*John White.*

*oliver Bowles.*

*Stephen Marshall.*

*Phillip Nye.*

*Charles Herle.*

*Anthony Tuchney.*

*Jo. Arrowsmith.*

*William Bridge.*

*Thomas Young.*

*William Carter.*

*Herbert Palmer.*

*Sidrach Simpson.*

*William Greenhill.*

*Jer. Burroughes.*

*Richard Heyricke.*

*Joseph Carrill.*

*Thomas Hill.*

*Thomas Wilson.*

*Jer. Whitakers.*

*FINIS.*